



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**NEW YEAR'S AIR QUALITY IS SIMILAR
TO LAST YEAR AND MEETS STANDARDS**

HONOLULU - The Hawaii State Department of Health's Clean Air Branch recorded similar levels of smoke in the atmosphere from the 2007 New Year's fireworks celebration as compared to last year. The monitored results for particulates met the 24-hour state and federal air quality standards. The other monitored pollutants did not show any large increase in levels and also met the state and federal air quality standards.

The air quality and smoke level are tracked by the Clean Air Branch with assistance from the State Laboratories Division through five air monitoring stations located at Honolulu, Liliha, Pearl City, Kapolei, and Kihei, Maui.

Of the four Oahu sites, Pearl City again recorded the highest particulate levels although at a much lower level than last year. The unexpected result was from Kapolei which exhibited higher levels from last year and may possibly be attributed to the lack of winds in the area between the early morning hours of midnight and 2:00 a.m. None of the other four sites experienced any decrease in winds throughout the night and morning hours.

"Overall, we were fortunate to have the tradewinds this year which provided some relief from the smoke by dispersing and transporting the particulates away from the islands," said Wilfred Nagamine, Manager of the Clean Air Branch.

The use of fireworks during the New Year's celebration will always have an impact on the air quality, but as shown by the Kapolei results, the degree of impact for an area is highly influenced by the amount of wind and rain, wind direction, and quantity of fireworks burned.

The colored graphs and data are available on the Department of Health's website at <http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/air/cab/index.html> and link of 2007 New Year's Data.

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